

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSC-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /123 W

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R 161201Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8225

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3192

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, DA

REF: COPENHAGEN 3145

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT FORMATION NO. 3 - SECOND ROUND

COMMENCES.

SUMMARY: QUEEN HAS ASKED MODERATE LIBERAL LEADER POUL  
HARTLING TO LEAD SECOND ROUND OF GOVERNMENT FORMATION  
TALKS. IF HE IS ABLE TO OBTAIN A WORKABLE AGREEMENT  
ON AN INCOMES POLICY WITH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (SDP),  
HIS CHANCES OF FORMING A PURE MODERATE LIBERAL  
GOVERNMENT DURING NEXT FEW DAYS APPEAR TO BE GOOD.

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END SUMMMARY.

1. AT CONCLUSION OF FIRST ROUND OF PRELIMINARY SOUNDING WHICH HE CONDUCTED INTERIM PRIMIN ANKER JORGENSEN ADVISED QUEEN TO GRANT HARTLING MANDATE AS FORMATEUR. JORGENSEN'S SOUNDINGS DISCLOSED THAT THREE PARTIES, CENTER DEMOCRATS (CD), CHRISTIAN PEOPLES (CH) AND MODERATE LIBERALS (V) SUPPORTED HARLING. RADICAL LIBERAL (R) LEADER, HILMAR BAUNSGAARD, WAS UNABLE TO SECURE SUPPORT FROM MORE THAN HIS OWN PARTY AND POSSIBLY FROM THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY (K). IN THE END HE CAPITULATED, AND HARTLING WAS SUPPORTED AS FIRST ROUND FORMATEUR BY R AND K AS WELL.

2. HARTLING CONSEQUENTLY WON CRUCIAL FIRST ROUND BATTLE AND IS NOW IN FAVORABLE POSITION TO FORM A GOVERNMENT - PERHAPS IN COALITION WITH R BUT, MORE PROBABLY, A PURE MODERATE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT. A MINORITY MODERATE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT FROM CD AND CH, PROVIDING A BASIC BLOC OF 43 VOTES, AND WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO DEPEND, ALTERNATIVELY, UPON SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC OR RADICAL LIBERAL/CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT ON AN ISSUE-BY-ISSUE BASIS.

3. PROSPECTS FOR THE LONGER-TERM EXISTENCE OF SUCH A NARROW-BASED GOVERNMENT ARE BETTER THAN WOULD APPEAR AT FIRST GLANCE. ALL PARTIES ARE NOW AGREED THAT MOGENS GLISTRUP'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY (P) SHOULD BE FROZEN OUT THUS HIS 28 VOTES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO DETERMINE PASSAGE OR FAILURE OF ANY LEGISLATION, MUCH LESS LIFE OR DEATH OF ANY GOVERNMENT. CONSEQUENTLY, A BOURGEOIS MINORITY GOVERNMENT NEEDS ONLY 66 VOTES TO BE ABLE TO OVERRIDE THE COMBINED SOCIALIST BLOCK (SOCIAL DEMOCRATS - 46, SOCIALIST PEOPLES-11, COMMUNISTS-6, PLUS THREE LEFT-WING MPS FROM GREENLAND AND THE FAEROES -- TIE WOULD BE BROKEN IN HARTLING'S FAVOR BY NON-SOCIALIST SPEAKER). ON ISSUES WHICH SOCIALIST PARTIES WOULD OPPOSE EN BLOC, HARTLING COULD NORMALLY EXPECT RADICAL AND CONSERVATIVE SUPPORT.

4. THUS, DECISIVE FACTOR WOULD BE ATTITUDE OF SDP AND  
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IN THIS AREA HARTLING CAN COUNT ON FACT THAT SDP PREFERS A MINORITY V GOVERNMENT TO A MINORITY R GOVERNMENT. SOCIAL DEMOCRATS HOPE IN NEXT ELECTION TO RECOVER THEIR RECENT LOSSES ON THE RIGHT TO CENTER DEMOCRATS AND RADICALS AND BELIEVE THIS WILL BE EASIER IF BAUNSGAARD IS NOT PRIME MINISTER. MOREOVER, SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WOULD PREFER GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE TO LIE WITH AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL (CLOSE TO V), RATHER THAN EMPLOYERS FEDERATION

- WHICH HAS BEEN PLUMPING FOR BAUNSGAARD.

5. THE CRITICAL ISSUE IN HARTLING'S SECOND ROUND  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SDP AND THE TRADE UNION FEDERATION  
(LO) WILL BE INCOMES POLICY. MODERATE LIBERAL LEADERS  
ARE CONFIDENT THAT A COMPROMISE CAN BE REACHED AND ARE  
REPORTEDLY, IN PROCESS OF LINING UP THEIR LIST OF  
MINISTERS.  
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## Message Attributes

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